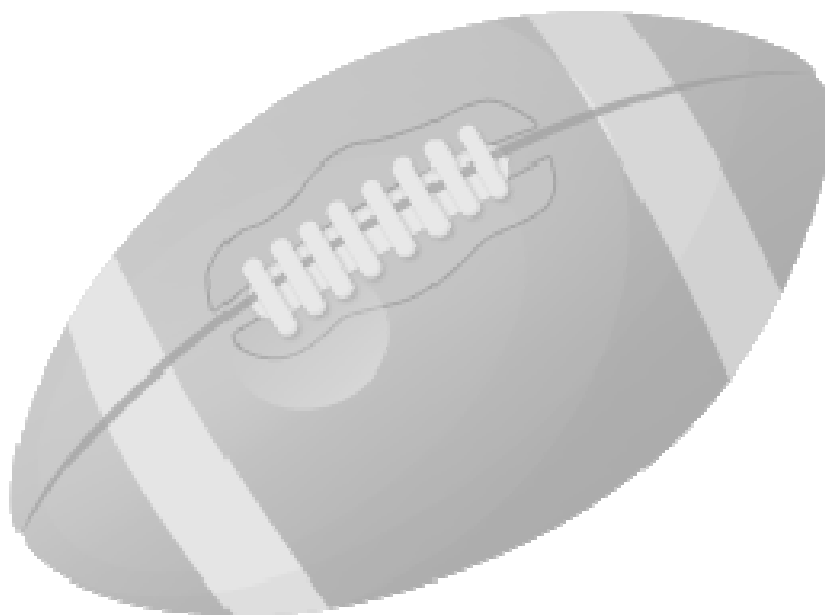


City of Torrance

Community Services Department • RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
310/618-2930 • www.TorranceCA.Gov

City of Torrance Youth Sports



Parent Guide

"Creating and Enriching Community through People, Program and Partnerships"



Printed on Recycled Paper

Flag Football 2013

All practices will be set up by the volunteer coach. Games will be played at Wilson Park. Eighth grade games will be played at McMaster Park.

Game Sites

Wilson Park

2200 Crenshaw Blvd.

Torrance, CA 90503

(corner of Crenshaw & Jefferson)

McMaster Park

3624 Artesia Boulevard

Torrance, CA 90504

(corner of Artesia & Yukon)

There will be no games on November 28 or 30, 2013.

Program Format

1. Kindergarten through seventh grade games will be played at Wilson Park on Saturdays.
2. Eighth grade games will be played at McMaster Park on either Tuesday or Thursday night, with the possibility of some Saturday games.
3. All practices will be set up by the volunteer coach and are held during the week or on Sundays.
4. Game schedules and shirts will be distributed by your coach.

Games are tentatively scheduled to begin on October 12, 2013, and will go through December 7, 2013. If you have not heard from a coach by October 7, please contact the Youth Sports Office.

League Philosophy

The City of Torrance Youth Sports program is designed to provide all children the opportunity to participate in an organized recreational sports activity without fear of discrimination, humiliation or harm.

This program has been established to:

1. Introduce the children to an organized team sport experience where they can learn the game.
2. Promote values associated with group participation such as: teamwork, sportsmanship, unity, cooperation and a sense of belonging.
3. Give children the opportunity, regardless of ability, to engage in competitive activities and at the same time have fun.
4. Establish a sense of responsibility to someone other than one's self.

Volunteer Coaches

The definition of a “Volunteer Coach” is an individual who willingly gives time and effort to the City of Torrance Community Services Department for the advancement of the Youth Sports program. Without this type of volunteer leadership, a significant portion of this program would be unable to survive. Through the participation of these individuals, all children will be provided with the opportunity to take part in a wholesome activity.

Volunteer coaches contribute a great deal to the community, and beyond this, they gain personal benefits from their efforts. The benefits derived from being a volunteer coach come from knowing that you, as a volunteer, have provided a meaningful service to the children that live in our community. If you wish to volunteer, you must complete a Volunteer Coach’s Application online at <http://www.torranceca.gov/VolunteerProgram.htm>. You will need to go to Human Resources, 3231 Torrance Blvd., and pick up a Volunteer Fingerprint Request Form that must be completed prior to the start of the season. City policy requires volunteers to be fingerprinted annually.

Parents may not interfere with coaches during the games. If you have a question or comment about the game, bring it up with the coach after the game is over.

Players on the Team

Thoughts to remember:

1. Remember that all players on your team are individuals and possess certain characteristics in common with other children, though they are each different in many ways.
2. Too much emphasis by parents on perfection may lead to loss of interest in sports.
3. Scolding, sarcasm, nagging and taking away privileges for not playing well won’t help them play better, it will only make them want to quit. Humiliating children in front of others is especially harmful and is unadvisable at every level.
4. All players, despite their level of skill, will play in every game. Remember to let the Coach coach.
5. Shouting criticisms at a child will only embarrass that child in the eyes of his/her teammates.

Adding and Dropping Players

It is not up to the coach when it comes to adding and dropping a player. A player can only be pulled from the league by a parent or the program Supervisor. Only the program Supervisor can add players to a team.

General Playing Rules

1. All players must be listed on the "Official Team Roster".
2. Players can only play for the team where they are assigned.
3. Teams are formed by grade and school. After being assigned to a team, players may not be switched to another team for any reason (no exceptions). If a player quits and receives a refund or credit, he/she may not sign up again during that current sports season.
4. Uniforms will be passed out by the coach during practice. Players are responsible for their uniform. Players will not be allowed to play without his/her "official" uniform.

Practice Scheduling

- Practices are scheduled by the volunteer coach.
- If your schedule conflicts with the coach's practice schedule, you should talk with the coach. However, the coach will need to set up their practice to meet their schedule and what fits with the majority of the team. There are no team switches, so you may need to re-adjust your child's schedule to fit with that of the volunteer coach.

Awards

Every child that participates will receive an award.

Game Schedules

Game schedules will be available on the Youth Sports web page: www.TorranceCA.Gov/Parks/9625.htm.

Program Supervisor and Staff

At each site, there will be a site supervisor that is in charge of that field. Any help that you need or any problem that may occur, should be discussed with the site supervisor at your facility or the program Supervisor. They are always willing to assist you, in any way possible, in an attempt to make your season a good one.

Relationship with Game Officials

The Recreation Services Division has made every effort to secure and train the best officials available. These high school and college students go through an intensive two-week training, as well as in-services during the season. Even with this training of officials, mistakes will be made. As with anyone in any profession or occupation, officials are fallible.

Displays of poor sportsmanship toward the game officials by the spectators or coaches **will not be tolerated**. It is important to remember that officials are **not** enemies of the team. They are responsible for proper administration of the game.

Good sportsmanship is you cheering your hearts out and enjoying your children playing the game. Winning is not everything, but the children are.

Points to Remember During a Game:

1. Officials must be treated with respect. Treat officials as you would wish to be treated. Your children take their cue from you and will follow your lead, so lead them in the way of sportsmanship.
2. A decision based on an official's judgment should **NOT** be questioned. Let your coach handle this. It's his job and up to him to decide what calls he feels need clarification; he knows the proper time to ask. Remember you are not in the same position as the official on the field and your eye line and his are different.
3. Parents should never go on the field at anytime during a game. In case of injury, wait until the coach calls you down. If a parent goes onto the field during the game, the game will be stopped and the parent will be ejected from the park and not allowed back for the next game. If the parent refuses to leave, the game will be called and there will be no make-up game scheduled.
4. Players are not allowed to question the official's decision.

NOTE: Any parent ejected will not be allowed to attend any games for the rest of the season, and will have to petition to the Recreation Services Division to return the following season.

Parents Code of Ethics

Parents are expected to adhere to the department's philosophy, which is mentioned in the beginning of this manual, and the following Code of Ethics.

- I pledge to be on time when dropping off my child for a practice or game. I understand that it is embarrassing for my child to be late to a game or practice. I understand the importance of picking up my child on time after all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, who has other commitments, and it tells my child that he/she is my top priority.
- I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids and that I will encourage my child to have fun and keep the sport in its proper perspective. I understand that the athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive.
- I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others, but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self.
- I understand the importance of setting a good example of sportsmanship to my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game. This includes the coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans and officials. I understand that these people may make mistakes. If the officials make a "questionable call", I will continue to respect the individual and be silent.
- I understand that games can be exciting times for my child, who is trying to deal with the fast-paced action of the game, respond to opponents, officials, teammates and listen to coaches. I will not add confusion by yelling out instructions. During the game, I will limit my comments to encouraging my child and players for both teams.
- I will not make negative comments about the game, coaches, officials or his/her teammates in my child's presence.
- I agree to honor this parent pledge in my words and actions.

By registering your child, you are agreeing to the terms of this Parent Pledge as they are presented to you.

Youth Sports Office Hours

Monday — Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed every other Friday – 10/4, 10/18, 11/01,
11/15, 11/29 & 12/13

Closed for Holidays – 11/11 & 11/28

Youth Sports Office Phone Number & Email

(310) 781-7515

YouthSports@TorranceCA.Gov

**The information below can be found on our website at:
www.TorranceCA.Gov/Parks/9625.htm**

- Emergency Form
- Flag Football FAQs
- Flag Football Rules
- Game Schedules
- General Information Form 2013
- Parent Guide
- Registration Form for 2013